

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
US Appln. No. 09/328,893

if this requested object (MO*) is not stored in the memory (MEM), checking whether there is sufficient memory space to write this object (MO*) into the memory (MEM) (step 120);

if there is no sufficient memory space, swapping at least one (MO1) of the stored objects (MO1, MO2) out of the memory (MEM) to a database (DB) according to at least one predetermined criterion (step 130); and

reading the requested object (MO*) from the database (DB) and writing it into the memory (MEM) (step 140).

7. (Amended) A network element for a digital communications network comprising a controller (FLT) for managing the network element using managed objects (MO1, MO2, MO*), a memory (MEM) connected to the controller (FLT), and a database (DB) connected to the controller (FLT), wherein the network element is connected to the digital communications network, wherein the controller (FLT), in response to requests (RQ), manages the network element by accessing the memory (MEM) and using the objects (MO1, MO2, MO*) stored therein, wherein, in response to a request (RQ = RQ*) for access to one (MO*) of the managed objects (MO1, MO2, MO*), the controller (FLT) checks whether this requested object (MO*) is stored in the memory, wherein, if this requested object (MO*) is not stored in the memory (MEM), the controller (FLT) checks whether there is sufficient memory space to write this object (MO*) into the memory (MEM), wherein, if there is no sufficient memory space, the controller (FLT) causes at least one (MO1) of the stored objects (MO1, MO2) to be swapped out

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of the memory (MEM) to a database (DB) according to at least one predetermined criterion, and wherein the controller (FLT) reads the requested object (MO*) from the database (DB) and writes it into the memory (MEM).

9. (Amended) A digital communications network with network elements, each network element comprising a controller (FLT) for managing the network element using managed objects (MO₁, MO₂, MO*), a memory (MEM) connected to the controller (FLT), and a database (DB) connected to the controller (FLT), wherein each network element is connected to the digital communications network, wherein the controller (FLT), in response to requests (RQ), manages the network element by accessing the memory (MEM) and using the objects (MO₁, MO₂, MO*) stored therein, wherein, in response to a request (RQ = RQ*) for access to one (MO*) of the managed objects (MO₁, MO₂, MO*), the controller (FLT) checks whether this requested object (MO*) is stored in the memory, wherein, if this requested object (MO*) is not stored in the memory (MEM), the controller (FLT) checks whether there is sufficient memory space to write this object (MO*) into the memory (MEM), wherein, if there is no sufficient memory space, the controller (FLT) causes at least one (MO₁) of the stored objects (MO₁, MO₂) to be swapped out of the memory (MEM) to a database (DB) according to at least one predetermined criterion, and wherein the controller (FLT) reads the requested object (MO*) from the database (DB) and writes it into the memory (MEM).